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**The Results of the 1999  
“Guide to Eating Ontario Sport Fish”  
Questionnaire**

**May 2002**



**Ontario**

**Ministry of the  
Environment**

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# The Results of the 1999 “Guide to Eating Ontario Sport Fish” Questionnaire

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## SUMMARY

This report presents the results of a questionnaire distributed with the 1999 *Guide to Eating Ontario Sport Fish* (the Guide), and compares the findings to the results in the 1995 questionnaire. A total of 424 responses to the 1999 questionnaire were received and used in the analysis found in this report.

Highlights of the results are:

1. Over 93% of the respondents found that the information in the Guide met their needs.
2. Over 76% of the respondents in the 1999 survey had used the Guide in previous years.
3. Over 93% of the respondents indicated that their fishing and/or fish-consuming habits had changed after using the Guide.
4. Over 84% of the respondents checked the Guide consumption advice before consuming their catch.
5. Over 60% of the respondents fished at least once every two weeks.
6. The water body most frequently fished by respondents was Lake Ontario, while Lake Simcoe was the most popular inland lake and the Credit River was the most popular river.
7. The walleye was the most frequently caught and consumed sport fish, with almost 65% of the respondents consuming walleye.
8. The size of the average sport fish meal consumed by respondents was 267 grams (9.4 ounces) and the most common consumption frequency was once per month.

9. The average meal size for commercially purchased fish was 224 gm (7.9 oz) and the most common consumption frequency was 1-4 times per month. Most commercially purchased fish were saltwater fish.

As well as answering the questions in the survey, many of the respondents also provided comments on the Guide, and many favourable comments were received. The entire set of verbatim comments from the respondents to this 1999 questionnaire is provided in Appendix III.

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## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

The Ontario Government began monitoring contaminant levels in sport fish in the 1960s when concerns were first raised about the effects of substances such as DDT on aquatic life.

In the 1960s, the Province of Ontario became aware of mercury contamination due to discharges from chlor-alkali (chlorine production) plants. These sources were either eliminated or severely curtailed in the early 1970s and intensive fish monitoring programs were initiated at affected sites.

During the 1970s, studies of contaminants in Ontario sport fish were expanded to include such substances as PCBs, mirex, organochlorine pesticides and other organic chemicals.

These efforts led to the formation of the Sport Fish Contaminant Monitoring Program (SFCMP), designed to test fish from as many angling areas as possible and assess all statistically reliable data on contaminants in Ontario sport fish. The program is a coordinated undertaking of the Ontario Ministries of Environment (MOE) and Natural Resources (MNR). Advice on human health protection is provided by specialists in Health Canada (HC).

Sport fish are normally collected by MNR and are analyzed by the MOE laboratory in Toronto. The test results are interpreted by SFCMP staff from MOE and consumption advice is provided for various size ranges of each species tested. The advice is based on tolerable daily intake information provided by HC. This information is derived through research and review of toxicological data. The advice is incorporated into the biennially updated "*Guide to Eating Ontario Sport Fish*" which gives consumption advice on fish species from over 1700 of

Ontario's inland lakes, rivers and Great Lakes locations.

## **2.0 HISTORY OF THE GUIDE QUESTIONNAIRES**

There have been seven sets of questionnaires associated with the Guide. In 1978, the first year of the Guide, questionnaires were sent randomly to people who had requested a copy of the Guide from MOE staff in response to newspaper advertising<sup>1</sup>. A total of 876 replies were received. In 1983, a questionnaire was enclosed in the back of all copies of the Guide and 807 responses were received. In 1986, an expanded version of the 1983 questionnaire was enclosed in the back of all copies of the Guide and 1337 responses were received. In 1989, questionnaires were enclosed in 100,000 of the 300,000 Guides and 913 responses were received. In 1992, a total of 10,000 questionnaires, along with business reply envelopes, were sent to distributors, to be randomly inserted in the Guides. Since 494 replies were received from a greatly reduced sample size, this approach was considered to be successful. In 1995, the same method was used

with 5000 questionnaires being sent to distributors and a total of 260 replies were received. This is a similar response rate to the 1992 questionnaire. In 1999, a similar approach using 10,000 questionnaires resulted in 424 replies being received.

The results of these questionnaires are used for several purposes. They provide information on the most effective means of distribution of the Guide, previous Guide use, the use and effectiveness of the consumption advice, fishing frequency, the most frequently fished locations and fish

consumption patterns. As well, readers are given the opportunity to suggest additional sampling locations, to provide comments and to provide suggestions on ways to improve the Guide. Some of the practical suggestions from these questionnaires have been incorporated into the Guide.

The reports on previous questionnaire results have been published<sup>2,3,4,5,6</sup>. This report focuses on the results of the 1999 survey, with some comparisons to the 1995 survey results. A copy of the 1999 questionnaire is given in Appendix I.

### 3.0 QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS

#### 3.1 Background of the Respondents

Over 98% of the respondents were Ontario residents and over 85% of these residents were from Southern Ontario (Table 1). A similar distribution was found in the 1995 survey results.

Over 80 % of the questionnaires were distributed in Southern Ontario locations.

Table 1. Residence of Respondents		
Residence	% of Respondents	
	1995	1999
Southern Ontario	89.4	85.4
Northern Ontario	9.0	13.0
Another Province	0.8	0.2
U.S.A	0.8	1.4

The percentage of males and females responding to these surveys has been very consistent, with almost 93% of the respondents to the 1999 survey being male (Table 2).

Table 2. Gender of Respondents			
Gender	% of Respondents		
	1992	1995	1999
Male	93.1	93	92.9
Female	6.9	7	7.1

Almost half of the respondents were in the 26-45 age group (Table 3). This has been the most frequently responding age group in all of the surveys.

Table 3. Age Groupings of Respondents		
Age Group (years)	% of Respondents	
	1995	1999
under 15	1.9	1
15-25	10.8	5.4
26-45	47.3	48.1
over 45	40	45.5

#### 3.2 Guide Distribution Sources and Guide Awareness

The Guides are distributed throughout the province mainly through the Beer Stores and Liquor Control Board of Ontario (LCBO) Stores (about 72%), also MOE and MNR offices and some fishing licence distributors. Over 42% of the respondents obtained their Guides from a government office (Table 4).

Respondents were also asked how they first became aware of the Guide. Almost 48% of the 1999 respondents indicated that they first became aware of the Guide after seeing it on display at a distributor (Table 5). This was the first time that the Guide was made available in electronic format on the MOE website and it has proved to be a very useful addition to the Guide distribution system.

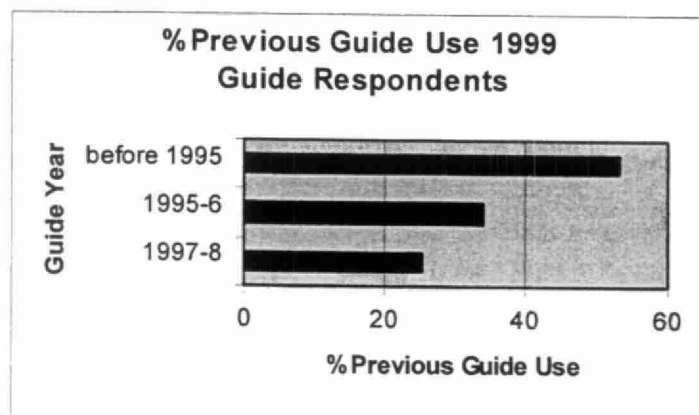
Table 4. Where Respondents Obtained Guide	
Source	% Respondents
By mail from gov't. office	33.4
LCBO Store	21.1
Sportsman Show	11.6
At a Government Office	9.0
The Beer Store	8.0
On the Internet	3.1
From a Friend or Relative	2.4
Other	11.4

Table 5. How Respondents First Became Aware of the Guide		
Source	% of Respondents	
	1995	1999
Saw it on display	57.8	47.7
Newspaper, radio, or TV	3.2	4.6
Advertisement	2.0	2.4
Told by a friend or relative	12.5	10.6
Told by a gov't. official	11.6	4.5
On the internet		2.6
Fishing Regulations article		23.5
Other	12.9	4.1

### 3.3 Use of the Guide

Respondents were asked whether they had obtained and used the Guide in previous years in order to determine Guide usage. Over 76% of the respondents had used previous Guides. Figure 1 shows the per cent of respondents to the 1999 survey who had also used previous Guides in 1997/1998, and/or 1995/1996, and/or prior to 1995.

Figure 1.



### 3.4 Fishing Frequency

Over 60% of the respondents indicated that they fished at least once every two weeks, with the most frequent response being "more than once a week". This response is similar to the results of previous surveys and indicates the popularity of fishing as a recreational activity. The per cent fishing frequency for each of the chosen categories is shown in Table 6.

Table 6. Fishing Frequency by Respondents	
Frequency	% of Respondents
daily	5.4
> once/week	18.8
once/week	18.5
once/2 weeks	17.5
once/ month	10.5
once/ 4 months	3.9
once	1.0
only on vacation	5.4
never	1.5
other	1.0

### **3.5 Fishing Locations**

Respondents were given a list of the most popular lakes and rivers from previous surveys, as well as a column in which to write the most frequently fished location if it was not listed. Table 7 lists the most commonly fished bodies of water for the 1995 and 1999 surveys in four categories:

1. the ten most popular angling areas
2. the ten most popular inland lakes
3. the ten most popular rivers
4. the Great Lakes

The three most frequently fished water bodies were the Great Lakes, and, as in previous surveys, Lake Ontario was the most frequently fished and Lake Huron/Georgian Bay was the next most frequently fished location. Lake Erie's popularity increased significantly from the previous survey. The popularity of Buckhorn Lake and the Grand and Niagara Rivers was also notably higher in this survey.

As in all previous surveys, Lake Simcoe was the most frequently fished inland lake, as almost 23% of the respondents fished this lake. As in the previous survey, seven of the top ten inland lakes fished were from the Kawartha Lake chain in Southern Ontario.

The Credit River was once again the most frequently fished river, while the French and Thames Rivers replaced the Rideau and St. Lawrence Rivers in the top ten list.

### **3.6 Sport Fish Caught and Consumed**

Respondents were asked which sport fish species they caught and consumed. As in all of the previous surveys, walleye was the most frequently caught and consumed sport fish, with almost 65% of the respondents consuming

walleye. The continued popularity of certain species is shown by the fact that the top six species remained the same in this survey as in the 1995 survey. Two new species appear on this list (Table 8), smelt and crappies, replacing brook trout and coho salmon.

### **3.7 Sport Fish Consumption**

The questionnaire results provide very useful information on the sport fish consumption patterns.

Respondents were asked how frequently they ate fish caught by angling from Ontario waters. Figure 2 compares the results of this survey and the 1995 survey.

The most common meal frequency was once every two weeks, with over 23% of the respondents indicating this consumption frequency. As well, 67.4% of the 1999 respondents consumed sport fish at least once a month compared to 51% in the 1995 survey. For this survey, 4.2% of the anglers did not consume any sport fish.

The respondents were also asked to estimate the quantity of fish caught by angling from Ontario waters that they would eat at a single meal. The results of this survey and the 1995 survey were quite similar and are compared in Figure 3. Over half of the respondents in both surveys (57.2% in 1995 and 58.9% in 1999) consumed at least 227 gm (8 oz) of sport fish per meal. As well, 227 gm (8 oz) was the most frequently mentioned meal size in both surveys (26.6% and 25.2% for 1995 and 1999 respectively). The average meal size (see Appendix II for calculations used in this section) was slightly higher in 1999 than in 1995,

Table 7. The Most Frequently Fished Lakes and Rivers in the 1995 and 1999 Surveys			
1995		1999	
Lake/River	% Respondents	Lake/River	% Respondents
<b>1. Ten Most Popular Angling Areas</b>			
1. Lake Ontario	41.5	1. Lake Ontario	37.8
2. Lake Huron/ Georgian Bay	29.2	2. Lake Huron/Georgian Bay	28.8
3. Lake Simcoe	26.9	3. Lake Erie	24.4
4. Credit River	18.5	4. Lake Simcoe	22.8
5. Lake Scugog	17.7	5. Credit River	15.5
6. Lake Erie	16.9	6. Rice Lake	14.0
7. Trent River	13.1	7. Grand River	14.0
8. Rice Lake	10.4	8. Niagara River	12.4
9. Balsam Lake	10.4	9. Lake Nipissing	12.3
10. Lake Nipissing	10.0	10. Buckhorn Lake	11.4
<b>2. Inland Lakes</b>			
1. Lake Simcoe	26.9	1. Lake Simcoe	22.8
2. Lake Scugog	17.7	2. Rice Lake	14.0
3. Rice Lake	10.4	3. Lake Nipissing	12.3
4. Balsam Lake	10.4	4. Buckhorn Lake	11.4
5. Lake Nipissing	10.0	5. Lake Scugog	10.9
6. Pigeon Lake	7.7	6. Pigeon Lake	8.5
7. Buckhorn Lake	6.2	7. Balsam Lake	8.5
8. Sturgeon Lake	5.4	8. Stony Lake	7.3
9. Lake St. Clair	4.2	9. Lake St. Clair	5.8
10. Stony Lake	2.7	10. Sturgeon Lake	5.3
<b>3. Great Lakes</b>			
1. Lake Ontario	41.5	1. Lake Ontario	37.8
2. Lake Huron/ Georgian Bay	29.2	2. Lake Huron/ Georgian Bay	28.8
3. Lake Erie	16.9	3. Lake Erie	24.4
4. Lake Superior	4.2	4. Lake Superior	4.4
<b>4. Rivers</b>			
1. Credit River	18.5	1. Credit River	15.5
2. Trent River	13.1	2. Grand River	14.0
3. Ganaraska River	10.0	3. Niagara River	12.4
4. Grand River	8.5	4. Ganaraska River	10.6
5. Ottawa River	8.1	5. Nottawasaga River	10.4
6. Niagara River	7.3	6. Trent River	10.1
7. Rideau River	7.3	7. Saugeen River	8.8
8. Nottawasaga River	6.5	8. French River	8.8
9. Saugeen River	6.5	9. Thames River	7.0
10. St. Lawrence River	5.4	10. Ottawa River	7.0



Table 8. Most Frequently Caught and Consumed Sport Fish Species by 1995 and 1999 Respondents			
1995		1999	
Species	% of Respondents	Species	% of Respondents
1. Walleye	56.5	1. Walleye	64.9
2. Yellow Perch	43.5	2. Yellow Perch	45.0
3. Smallmouth Bass	40.5	3. Smallmouth Bass	41.7
4. Rainbow Trout	36.2	4. Rainbow Trout	39.0
5. Lake Trout	30.6	5. Lake Trout	32.9
6. Northern Pike	28.5	6. Northern Pike	30.3
7. Chinook Salmon	24.6	7. Largemouth Bass	29.6
8. Largemouth Bass	22.4	8. Chinook Salmon	20.8
9. Brook Trout	20.3	9. Smelt	19.4
10. Coho Salmon	17.7	10. Crappie	18.7

Figure 2.

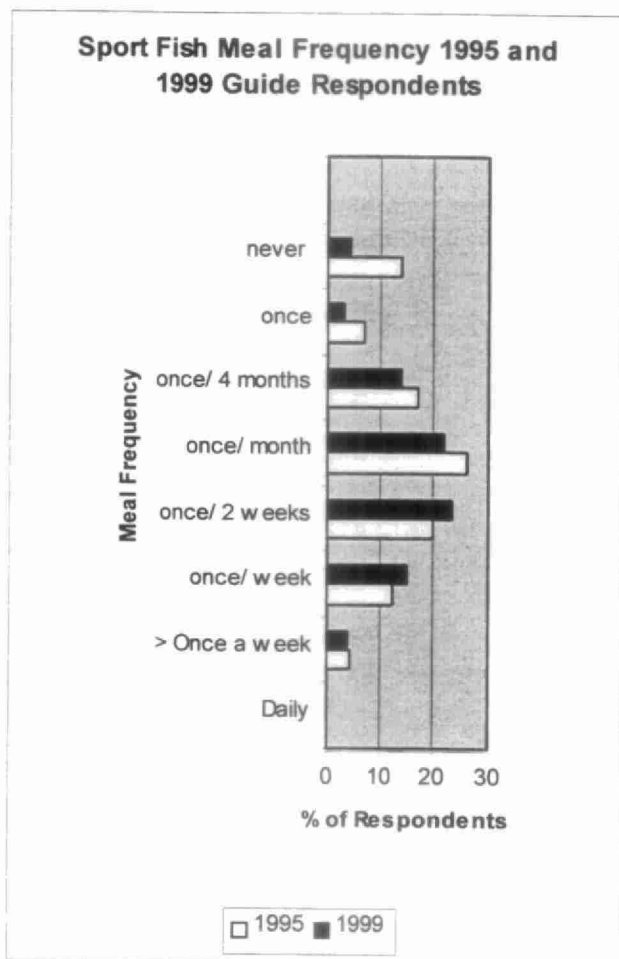
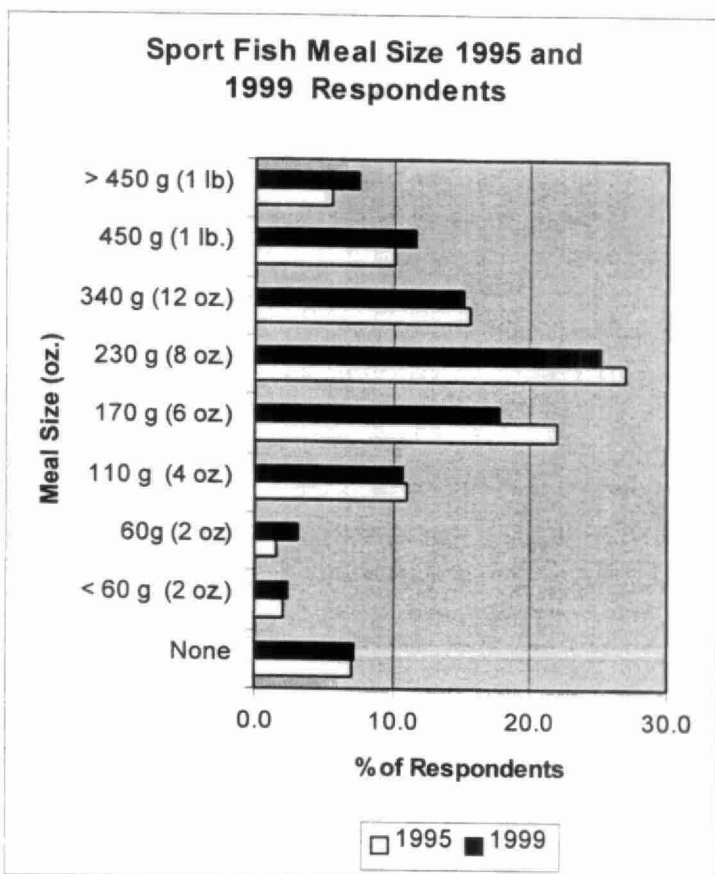


Figure 3.



being 267gm (9.4 oz) and 256 gm (9.0 oz) respectively. In the 1999 survey, sport fish consumers ate an average of 23 meals per year. This is higher than the 18 meals per year average by the 1995 survey respondents. The average daily consumption of sport fish was estimated to be 17.0 gm (0.60 oz) in the 1999 survey, much higher than the daily consumption of 12.3 gm (0.43 oz) in 1995.

### 3.8 Consumption of Other Aquatic Species

In order to assess the level of consumption of edible aquatic species other than sport fish, respondents were asked if they had ever consumed any of the following: freshwater clams/mussels, bullfrogs, snapping turtles or crayfish. Table 9 shows the percentage of the respondents who consumed any of these species one or more times.

Bullfrogs were the most frequently consumed species with 13.7% of the 1999 respondents having consumed them at least once. In 1999, almost 78% of the respondents had never consumed any of these species, which is similar to the 76% response in 1995.

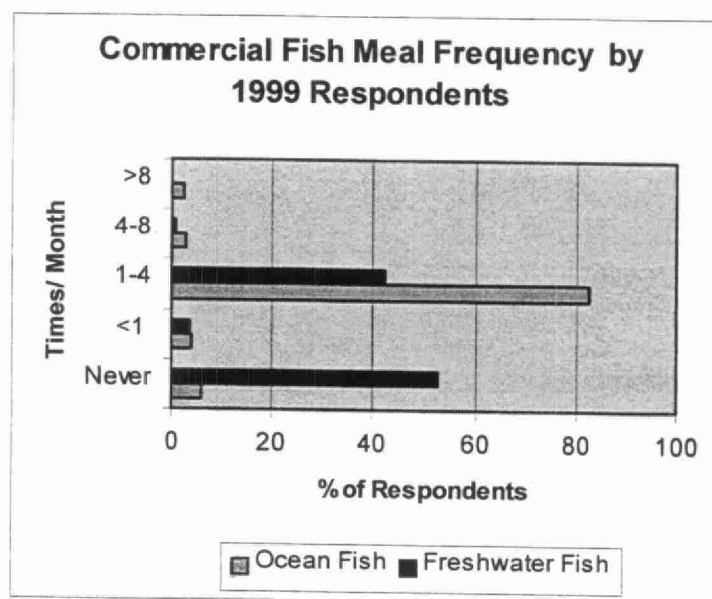
The consumption frequency of these species by the 1999 respondents was very low, averaging 1.5 meals per year, with a maximum of 6 meals during the previous year.

Table 9. Consumption of Other Aquatic Species by 1999 Respondents	
Species	% Respondents
Clams/Mussels	7.3
Bullfrogs	13.7
Snapping Turtles	3.2
Crayfish	8.1

### 3.9 Commercial Fish Consumption

In order to determine the total fish consumption from both sport and commercial fish, respondents were asked: "How often do you eat fish purchased at a store?", with the option to fill in the number of meals per month of ocean fish and also freshwater fish consumed. Figure 4 shows the results of this question, and for those respondents who did consume commercial fish, the average was 2.4 meals per month for ocean fish and 1.4 meals per month for freshwater fish, with the most frequent response being 1-4 meals per month. This is equivalent to 29 meals per year for ocean fish consumption and 17 meals per year for freshwater fish consumption. In comparison, the sport fish consumption was 23 meals per year. Over half of the respondents did not consume

Figure 4.



freshwater commercial fish. The average meal size for commercial fish was 224 gm (7.9 oz), which is lower than the sport fish meal size of 267 gm (9.4 oz).

Respondents were asked to indicate which commercial fish species they consumed. The ten most frequently consumed commercial fish species for the 1999 survey are listed in Table 10. As in previous surveys, the top commercial fish species consumed were saltwater fish.

Because of concerns for sensitive consumers (ie. women of childbearing age and children under 15) who may be consuming shark, swordfish or fresh tuna, which contain higher levels of mercury, an additional question was asked in this survey, to determine the annual consumption of these fish. Only about 11% of the respondents consumed any of these, with an average annual consumption of 2.5 meals for shark, 3.0 for swordfish and 3.6 for fresh tuna.

**Table 10. The Ten Most Frequently Consumed Commercial Fish by 1999 Respondents**

Species	% of Respondents
1. Tuna (canned)	49.0
2. Halibut	41.2
3. Cod	39.0
4. Haddock	38.3
5. Rainbow Trout	22.9
6. Sole	21.5
7. Walleye	21.0
8. Salmon	19.8
9. Ocean Perch	18.3
10. Yellow Perch	14.6

### **3.10 Changes in Fishing and Fish-Consuming Habits**

In order to determine the effectiveness of the Guide in influencing anglers' fishing habits, the question was asked in all surveys: "Has the information in this Guide led to a change in your fishing and/or fish consuming habits?"

Information in the Guide has influenced the vast majority of the respondents as 93.3% indicated a change in habits after using the Guide. This is much higher than the response of 72.9% to this question in 1995. Almost 80% of the respondents who indicated that their habits had changed chose the response "awareness of contaminants in fish" as the reason for the change. Awareness of contaminants could influence both their choice of fishing locations (ie. they may change to fishing in areas with few or no consumption restrictions) and their fish consumption (ie. they no longer consume all fish caught, but check the Guide before consuming fish). Other important changes in fish consuming habits include eating fish within the guidelines and returning larger fish. Table 11 gives the frequency of the various responses (these results do not total 100% as more than one response was sometimes given).

<b>Table 11. Positive Changes in Fishing and / or Fish Consumption Habits</b>	
Change	%
Awareness of contaminants in fish	79.7
Eat fish withing guidelines	54.2
Return larger fish	47.6
Changed fishing locations	20.7
Eat less fish	18.4
Eat more fish	2.9
Stopped eating fish	1.8

About 7% of the respondents indicated that the Guide did not change their fishing habits. Table 12 lists the various responses which indicate why there was no change in fishing habits. The most frequent reason was that respondents did not catch or eat enough fish.



Table 12. No Changes in Fishing and/or Fish Consumption Habits	
Reason	%
Don't catch or eat enough fish	49.7
Areas fished are not listed in the guide	22.2
The consumption advice is too strict	13.1
Don't eat fish	12.3
Consumption advice is not strict enough	5.9

The results of this question indicated that the Guide was very useful in making the public more aware of the presence of contaminants in sport fish.

### 3.11 Use of the Consumption Advice

In order to determine if Guide users were following the advisories included in it, the following questions were asked:

- "If you intend to keep the fish that you catch, do you check the consumption advice in the guide?"
- "Do you follow the consumption advice in the guide?"
- "The consumption advice in the guide is based on the skinless dorsal fillet. Is this the only portion of the fish that you regularly consume?"

For question a), 84% of the respondents indicated that they do check their catch prior to consumption. Some of the remaining respondents may only fish at locations where there are no restrictions on the species they are fishing for, therefore there is no need to check the Guide each time they fish there.

For question b), four frequencies were offered: "always", "usually", "sometimes" or "never". 44.2% of the respondents replied that they always followed the consumption advice, while 35.4% replied "usually", 12.7% replied "sometimes" and only 7.7% replied "never".

Question c) was asked to determine what portions of the fish are being consumed. Almost 50% of the respondents indicated that they only consumed skinless dorsal fillets as recommended in the guide. Respondents were asked to choose between four portion types if they didn't consume just dorsal fillets. Table 13 shows the portion types consumed by anglers (the results don't total 100% as more than one portion could be chosen). The most frequently consumed portion, other than the dorsal fillet, was the "whole fish/fish steaks including fat". The portion which would be of the most concern because of the potentially higher contaminant content would be "fish eggs/livers", but this was the least frequent response.

The results of these questions and the "habits" question indicate that the information in the Guide influenced the consumption patterns of Ontario anglers.

Table 13. Consumption of Portion Types by 1999 Respondents	
Portion Types	% of Respondents
skinless dorsal fillet	59.0
whole fish/ fish steaks, including fat	32.5
skin-on fillet	26.9
whole fish / fish steaks, with fat trimmed	25.0
fish eggs/ livers	4.7

### 3.12 Suitability of the Guide

It can be concluded that the Guide is a practical information source for anglers and sport fish consumers since 93% of the respondents replied "yes" to the question: "Does the information provided in this guide meet your needs?"

Respondents were also asked if the Guide listed the lakes and rivers they were interested in, and four options were given: "all", "most", "some", and "none", in order to provide a simplified response. The results were positive as 35.5% of the respondents replied "all", 50% replied "most", 12.1% replied "some" and only 2.4% replied "none". There are over 250,000 lakes and many rivers in Ontario and it would be impractical to sample them all. However, the value of the Guide to the majority of its users is indicated by the fact that the most popular fishing locations have been sampled.

The 1999 Guide was also made available on the internet on the MOE website. This has proved to be a useful format as 39% of the respondents indicated that they would use this source.

### **3.13 Comments**

Guide questionnaires provide the respondents with the opportunity to suggest additional lakes and rivers for sampling, to suggest improvements to the Guide and to provide comments on any aspect of the Program. Respondents were given the opportunity to make suggestions or provide comments in two of the questions in the 1999 survey.

Respondents were asked to suggest additional lakes and rivers that they would like to see tested. The most frequently suggested locations will be sampled in future years.

A large number of suggestions were received in response to the statement: "Any comments on this guide or suggestions for improvement (including additional information you would like to see in the guide) would be appreciated". Frequent suggestions included testing more species and locations, and combining the Guide with the fishing regulations. Each of these

suggestions is discussed in the following paragraphs:

An explanation of the reasons for selecting a particular location for sampling is given in the Guide introductory text. These reasons may include:

- it is a popular angling area
- there is a known or suspected source of pollution nearby
- it is a major source of food for local inhabitants
- it is being opened for recreational development
- it is part of a long-term monitoring study of contaminants in fish

The selection of testing sites is an ongoing process and public input is received from sources such as questionnaire responses.

It is not economically feasible nor necessary to test all fish species in a particular waterbody. An explanation of the species selected for testing is given in the Guide introductory text. It is important to note that not all species accumulate a particular contaminant at the same rate. For example, top predators such as walleye and northern pike accumulate mercury to a much higher level than do whitefish, which feed lower down on the food chain. If low levels of mercury are found in the top predators, then testing of other species lower on the food chain is usually not necessary.

Every effort is made during any retesting to collect any top predator species which were not obtained in the initial testing of a location.

It would be difficult to combine the fishing regulations with the Guide as each is formatted for its specific needs (eg. fishing regulations booklet has maps which need a large paper size, while the Guide format is smaller with

tables which read sideways). As well, this would result in a very bulky publication which may not appeal to all anglers.

The vast majority of the comments received were very favourable toward the Guide and the Sport Fish Contaminant Monitoring Program. Some examples of the comments received were: "I just became aware of this book. Thank you very much! When we catch fish at various lakes and rivers while camping, we now feel confident as to whether or not we can safely eat them. Thanks!" and " I appreciate the continued effort and dedicated staff collecting samples and the staff doing the careful analysis and publication. Keep up the important work!" and "Very informative. Learned facts that I never knew - great publication" and "I have never wanted information that I couldn't find in the guide. It's contents are very thorough and helpful. It is very easy to order and the speed of delivery is very impressive. Keep up the excellent work."

These comments serve to further reaffirm that the Guide publication serves a very worthwhile purpose as a source of useful information to the angling and fish-consuming public. The wide array of comments received are included verbatim (with no spelling or grammatical corrections) in Appendix III.

#### **4.0 CONCLUSION**

The responses to this and previous Guide questionnaires, along with the comments, indicate that the *Guide to Eating Ontario Sport Fish* is widely used and appreciated by many Ontario anglers and sport fish consumers. There is a definite need to continue serving the Ontario public in the future with this useful information, and to continue with the questionnaires as a means of achieving public

feedback to assist in both the operation of the Sport Fish Contaminant Monitoring Program and in continual improvements to the Guide.

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## APPENDICES

I 1999 Questionnaire

II Calculations Used for Sport Fish Consumption Figures

III 1999 Questionnaire Comments from Respondents

**Appendix I**  
**"Guide to Eating Ontario Sport Fish" 1999 Questionnaire**

The Ministry of the Environment sport fish contaminant program would appreciate your co-operation in completing and returning this postage-free questionnaire. Please answer as many questions as possible.

Your answers and comments will enable us to improve the guide and the effectiveness of the program.

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**1. What is your age?**

- ☐ Under 15 years
- ☐ 15-25 years
- ☐ 26-45 years
- ☐ Over 45 years

**2. What is your sex?**

- ☐ Male     ☐ Female

**3. Do you reside in:**

- ☐ Northern Ontario
- ☐ Southern Ontario
- ☐ Another province
- ☐ The U. S.

**4. Where did you obtain your 1999 guide?**

- ☐ Sportsmen's Show
- ☐ LCBO Store
- ☐ The Beer Store
- ☐ By mail from a government office
- ☐ At a government office
- ☐ From a friend or relative
- ☐ Internet
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**5. How did you first become aware of the guide?**

- ☐ Saw it on display
- ☐ Newspaper, radio or TV story
- ☐ Advertisement
- ☐ Told by friend or relative
- ☐ Told by a government official
- ☐ Internet
- ☐ Article in Fishing Regulations Summary
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**6. Have you used the guide in previous years?**

- ☐ Yes     ☐ No

**If yes, which issue(s) of the guide have you used?**

- ☐ 1997-8
- ☐ 1995-6
- ☐ before 1995

**7. How often do you go fishing in Ontario?**

- ☐ Only during a vacation: \_\_\_\_\_ times
- ☐ Daily
- ☐ More than once a week
- ☐ Once a week
- ☐ Once every two weeks
- ☐ Once a month
- ☐ Once every four months
- ☐ Once only
- ☐ Never
- ☐ \_\_\_\_\_ times/year
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**8. What lakes and rivers in Ontario do you usually fish?**

**a) Lakes**

- ☐ Balsam
- ☐ Buckhorn
- ☐ Erie
- ☐ Huron/Georgian Bay
- ☐ Nipissing
- ☐ Ontario
- ☐ Pigeon
- ☐ Rice
- ☐ St. Clair
- ☐ Scugog
- ☐ Simcoe
- ☐ Stony

- ☐ Sturgeon
- ☐ Superior
- ☐ Other: (any other frequently fished lake):  
\_\_\_\_\_

**b) Rivers:**

- ☐ Credit
- ☐ French
- ☐ Ganaraska
- ☐ Grand
- ☐ Niagara
- ☐ Nottawasaga
- ☐ Ottawa
- ☐ Rideau
- ☐ Saugeen
- ☐ St. Lawrence
- ☐ Thames
- ☐ Trent
- ☐ Other: (any other frequently fished river):  
\_\_\_\_\_

**9. What species of sport fish do you regularly eat?**

- ☐ Brook trout
- ☐ Brown bullhead
- ☐ Brown trout
- ☐ Carp
- ☐ Catfish
- ☐ Chinook salmon
- ☐ Cisco (herring)
- ☐ Coho salmon
- ☐ Crappie
- ☐ Lake trout
- ☐ Largemouth bass
- ☐ Muskie
- ☐ Northern pike
- ☐ Pink salmon
- ☐ Rainbow trout
- ☐ Rock bass
- ☐ Smallmouth bass
- ☐ Splake
- ☐ Sunfish
- ☐ Walleye (pickerel)
- ☐ Whitefish
- ☐ White sucker
- ☐ Yellow perch
- ☐ Others: \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ did not keep fish to eat

**10. How often do you eat sport fish?**

- ☐ Only during a vacation: \_\_\_\_\_ times
- ☐ Daily
- ☐ More than once a week
- ☐ Once a week
- ☐ Once every two weeks
- ☐ Once a month
- ☐ Once every four months
- ☐ Once only
- ☐ Never
- ☐ \_\_\_\_\_ times/year
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**11. How much fish caught by angling from Ontario waters do you eat at a single meal?**

- ☐ None
- ☐ Under 60 g (2 oz)
- ☐ 60 g (2 oz)
- ☐ 110 g (4 oz)
- ☐ 170 g (6 oz)
- ☐ 230 g (8 oz)
- ☐ 340 g (12 oz)
- ☐ 450 g (1 lb)
- ☐ Over 450 g (1 lb)

**12. a) If you intend to keep the fish that you catch do you check the consumption advice in the guide?**

- ☐ Yes    ☐ No

**b) Do you follow the consumption advice in the guide?**

- ☐ Always
- ☐ Usually
- ☐ Sometimes
- ☐ Never

**c) If you do not always follow the consumption advice in the guide, why not?**

- ☐ Don't eat fish
- ☐ Don't catch or eat enough fish
- ☐ The consumption advice is too strict
- ☐ The consumption advice is not strict enough
- ☐ Areas fished are not listed in the guide
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

13. The consumption advice in the guide is based on the skinless dorsal fillet. Is this the only portion of the fish that you regularly consume?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If "No", which other portion(s) do you regularly consume?

- ☐ Skin-on fillet
- ☐ Skin-off, full-side fillet
- ☐ Fish eggs, liver
- ☐ Whole fish/fish steaks
- ☐ Whole fish/fish steaks, with belly fat trimmed
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

14. Has the information in the guide led to a change in your fishing and/or fish-consuming habits?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If "Yes", in what way(s)?

- ☐ Awareness of contaminants in fish
- ☐ Eat more fish
- ☐ Eat less fish
- ☐ Eat fish within guidelines
- ☐ Return larger fish
- ☐ Stopped eating fish
- ☐ Changed fishing locations
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

15. a) Does the information provided in this guide meet your needs?

☐ Yes ☐ No

b) Does it list the lakes and rivers you are interested in?

- ☐ All
- ☐ Most
- ☐ Some
- ☐ None

c) Could you suggest additional lakes and rivers to be tested?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

16. a) How often do you eat fish purchased at a store?

- ☐ Ocean fish: \_\_\_\_\_ times per month
- ☐ Freshwater fish: \_\_\_\_\_ times per month

b) Which species of fish would you normally purchase?

**Ocean fish**

- ☐ Boston bluefish
- ☐ Cod
- ☐ Haddock
- ☐ Halibut
- ☐ Ocean perch
- ☐ Salmon
- ☐ Shark
- ☐ Sole
- ☐ Swordfish
- ☐ Tuna (canned)
- ☐ Tuna (fresh)
- ☐ Turbot
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Freshwater fish**

- ☐ Catfish
- ☐ Lake trout
- ☐ Rainbow trout
- ☐ Salmon
- ☐ Smelt
- ☐ Walleye
- ☐ Whitefish
- ☐ Yellow perch
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

c) If you consume shark, swordfish or fresh tuna (not canned), please indicate how frequently.

- ☐ shark: \_\_\_\_\_ times/year
- ☐ swordfish: \_\_\_\_\_ times/year
- ☐ fresh tuna: \_\_\_\_\_ times/year

17. How much fish purchased from a store do you eat at a single meal?

- ☐ None
- ☐ Under 60 g (2 oz)
- ☐ 60 g (2 oz)
- ☐ 110 g (4 oz)



- ☐ 170 g (6 oz)
- ☐ 230 g (8 oz)
- ☐ 340 g (12 oz)
- ☐ 450 g (1 lb)
- ☐ Over 450 g (1 lb)

18. a) Please indicate if you have ever consumed any of the following from Ontario waterbodies:

- ☐ Freshwater clams/mussels
- ☐ Bullfrogs
- ☐ Snapping turtles
- ☐ Crayfish
- ☐ No, I have never consumed any of these

b) How frequently do you consume these?

\_\_\_\_\_times/year

19. The guide is now available on the Internet. Will you use this information source?

- ☐ Yes    ☐ No

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Any comments on this guide or suggestions for improvement ( including additional information you would like to see in the guide) would be appreciated.

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Thank you for taking the time to assist us.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the program at (toll-free) 1-800-820-2716, in the Toronto area at (416) 235-6220 or by e-mail at [sportfish@ene.gov.on.ca](mailto:sportfish@ene.gov.on.ca)

## **APPENDIX II**

### **Calculation used for Sport Fish Consumption Figures**

The following methods were used to calculate the sport fish consumption figures used in this report.

#### **a) Mean Meal Size**

The mean meal size was calculated from responses to question 11 in the questionnaire, which asked: "How much fish caught by angling from Ontario waters do you eat in a single meal?" The calculations were initially done in ounces, and for the "under 2 oz (60 g)" response, a value of one ounce was assumed. Also for the "over 1 lb (450 g)" response, 20 ounces was assumed. The number of responses for each size category was determined and the results were totaled. The number of respondents who did not consume any sport fish were deleted from the calculations. The total was divided by the number of fish-consuming respondents to derive an average meal size of 9.4 oz or 267 grams.

#### **b) Number of Sport Fish Meals Consumed/Year**

The number of sport fish meals consumed/year was determined from the responses to question 10, which asked "How often do you eat sport fish?". All the responses were converted to a number of days out of the year (eg. "daily" = 365, "once /week" = 52, etc.). For the "more than once per week" response, three times/week (156) was assumed, and numbers were used, as given, in the "only during a vacation: \_\_times" and "other" categories. The number of responses for each category, multiplied by the equivalent number of days, was totaled and divided by the number of respondents who consumed sport fish. This gave an average figure of 23.3 meals/consumer/year.

#### **c) Daily Sport Fish Consumption Figures**

This figure is derived from the following calculations:

number of meals/consumer/year (23.3) X mean meal size (9.4) = number of ounces consumed/year (219)

This result was converted to grams/year ( multiplying by the conversion factor of 28.35), and was divided by 365 days to give a daily sport fish consumption figure of 17.0 grams.

### APPENDIX III

#### 1999 Questionnaire Comments from Respondents

The following are verbatim comments received in reply to the questionnaire statement: "Any comments on this guide or suggestions for improvement (including additional information you would like to see in the guide) would be appreciated". Please note that these comments were not corrected for grammatical or spelling errors. The questionnaires were numbered as they were received, and not all respondents provided comments or suggestions.

1. The specific generic location of the sampled fish should be listed "ie. Street or access point"
2. Hamilton Harbour looks to be not restrictive enough.
3. I would like to see full ½ fillets in your guide instead of just dorsel fillets used as a reference. It would be broader overview of the contaminants in fish, and the best way to determine a better more realistic consumption practise. I only keep fish listed as unlimited consumption.
4. A discussion of the trends in limiting contaminants (particularly with respect to Lake Ontario) would be appreciated.
5. Nothing comes to mind, unless you can mark the predominant species in a lake.
6. 1. I would like to see trend analysis of data. I have been saving the guides and looking to see if I can see changes in pollutants in fish, but would prefer to use your info if available?  
2. What about commercial fish? Fresh and salt water no information as to the source of these products? why not?
7. A brighter marker for the index. It's probably the most useful pg. Thank you
8. Would like info on walleye in Lake Matchedash. Thanks
9. The guide is great, though I don't use it. I have looked through one and the lakes I fish to keep fish ie Kawarthis have always seemed fine, when that changes I am sure I will and others will use the guide more regular. Thank-you.
10. Keep searching for ways to improve guide to being user friendly. Clearer list of contaminants being identified. Expand sampling and testing to include other and finally all contaminants.
11. Keep up good work. More about the area's I have listed inside. Thanks
12. OK, seems to suite my needs.
13. What I wanted was a simple form listing different fish and which ones you can eat and how

much of each one to be safe. This booklet shows the fish but it is broke down to each of the waters and I have no way of knowing where the fish are caught when I buy them in the store. Zehrs does state Ocean Perch and Ocean catfish but what ocean. There is no way of knowing where the fish I eat are caught. So aside from asking each time - how am I suppoosed to know what is safe? I love fish!

14. Need pictures for recognition of Ontario fresh water fish.
15. Most in all, a good guide that would help others be aware of containments in fish in certain lakes and Rivers.
16. I live in Eastern Ontario wtih my lakes that are close to our home. We have (my children+2) been fishing in the Rivers around Russell, St Robert and Casselbran. They have some gtreat bass fishing and also good pike fishing. Walleye has returned but are fished mostly though like ice.
17. The consumption is for my wife and I. The guide is used a lot for non residents. I sell fishing tags and try to pick up a new copy from the MNR, then LCBO.
18. How often are the fish and other seafood products tested for contamination?
19. Perhaps some more info on why and hows to properly release fish so they can continue to increase!
20. Thank you for including me in this survey, I operate Rhombeus Charters, located in Port Hope ON. If you need additional information please do not hesitate to call or write me.
21. More lakes in Northing Ontario.
22. As a charter fishing guide I use the guide to advise clients. I think it is sufficiently complete.
23. Advertise more about the booklet.
24. I didn't realize that this booklet was redone as frequently as indicated. I have been useing a really old guide about 10 years old. I am not sure if the restrictions are strict enough as far as levels in the fish.
25. Just thank you for publishing it. I have eaten an above average amount of gamefish since I was a kid and am very healthy overall.
26. I just became aware of this book. Thank you very much! When we catch fish at various lakes and rivers while camping we now will feel confident as to whether or not we can safely eat them. Thanks!
27. A good booklet. Thanks

28. More info should be given to the general population in Southern Ontario regarding the acceptable consumption of fish from Lake Ontario. Most people I speak to think that all fish from this body of water are not edible due to high contamination levels.
29. I see you have listed some of the lakes I fish in, such as Kasheha Lake. But you have only listed two of the seven Major fish groups. Why?
30. Accuracy in fish size ranges. More listings of lake and Rivers in Central/ Southern On. More species per lake. Possibly a separate book for Northern Ontario. How to track unknown / unnamed lakes esp. Algonquin. A map showing Township locations. Include the book and regulations with outdoors card renewal. We often use the guide as the sole basis in determining where to plan fishing trips Also for species within a lake.
31. Some lakes and rivers have other species available that are not listed in the guide eg. Puslinch lake shows pike and walleye yet there is an abundance of bass and crappie.
32. More detail on fish and easier to read through.
33. Please do not use the Internet for the only source for the fishing guide. I have no computer and no need to buy one. Little need for an expensive dust collector.
34. Incorporate the fishing reg's in the book. Explain the virtues of catch and release. Small section of ocean fish consumption this is what most people eat. Great book keep up good work. Test for other or a more complete sampling of toxins in fish. What happens when you eat more than recommended amount.
35. I run a fishing charter on Lake Erie. The main fish we are after is walleye. I am continually asked if these fish are safe to eat. I show the guide to a lot of my customers.
36. Difficult/costly to download consumption guide due to need for specified software. Ok for quick reference.
37. Great Resource; Great to keep in tackle box. Stop wasting money on French/English. I don't use French and don't know anyone who does.
38. Small river systems and coldwater creeks are rarely listed. Anglers who devote most fishing hours to these smaller tributaries would find information on the contaminants very useful. In addition, I have found that while most species in a given water body are listed, many have been left out. For example: Trout waters or Whiteman's Creek. Grand River Watershed)
39. This is a great 'quick' reference guide that I can take along with my gear on trips northward. It will quickly let me know what fish and size is eatable in a specific area. Thanks.

40. List health risks for various chemicals.
41. I would like to see included in the guide if possible information on how to determine age in trouts and salmon, also whether male or female.
42. Improvement: please show the actual contaminant levels in the specific species.
43. Good Stuff!
44. I know its an eating guide, but many use the info as an indicator of a lake's ecological health. Test on other "indicator species" would be of interest to those of us so interested, to identify the pathways of toxins and our potentially exposures through all media. Many thanks to the MOE and Chuck Cox for the great work in this guide!!
45. I was really surprised at how fast it came in the mail when I sent away for it. Great book keep it up! Do not discontinue the printing of this yearly guide, it's a well informed easy to read reference guide.
46. Some times the guide is hard to intorput.
47. Provide more fish pictures. Use color photo instead of drawing. My major problem is that I have difficult in identifying what I catch.
48. I would like the ACTUAL date and time of day (if applicable) for ALL test locations. I fully realize that many Ontarians/others may think data from over a decade ago is 'out-of-date' however, if a page at the start of the guide used big bold lettering and a respected scientist to state such times are NOT out-of-date, I would find the guide far more useful. It is as much a fisherman's tool as a fish-eater's guide.
49. I am very disapointed with getting absolutely no response from the MNR after catching a rainbow that was tagged in two places. I contacted many times the MNR to give them information about the fish but never got # phone call back! The hatcher was phoned as well, also no response! Thanks for nothing!
50. List all edible species regardless of population in each body of water. Ex Trout lake east of North Bay. No listing of atlantic salmon although they are prevalent.
51. Clayton Lake 4510/7620 Lanark & Ramsry Twps also contains the following fish species: Northern Pike, Yellow Perch and Pumpkinseed. Constance Lake 4524/9559 March Twp also contains Smallmouth and Largemouth Bass.
52. Thanks for your work.
53. Thankx for the oppertunity to enjoy Ontario's renewable resources responsibly.

54. Thankyou - great cover illustration.
55. I have used this guide to gain farther knowledge about general lake water quality for swimming and cleaning purposes.
56. I would like to see an internet sight or is there is one how to find it.
57. Lakes that usually contain (known) populations of eg Brook Trout, not listed for that lake, while lesser fish are.
58. Please include one new chapter indicating the exact locations on spots of fishing whose fishes are less contaminated and good to eat. Exact names/locations of the fishing spots (clean water). It would be very very useful too the many people who have no idea about the locations.
59. I appreciate your efforts greatly.
60. I found your book very helpfull.
61. I was actually looking for information from the guide on the internet. All I could find is the location where the guide could be orded. If I had found the guide itself, I would not have ordered it.
62. I would like to see more stores hand out or have guide to eating fish books.
63. I have not practised eating whit fish perch or rock bass but at times I consider it especially perch, bass as they bite and are caught by me often in quantity and was raised in the Muskutoas and fed on them then. Port Carling and Gravenhurst area. Thank you for book I appreciate it.
64. Need More testing from smaller creeks and rivers- no info on catfish 4 to 10 lbs.
65. I have the guide from 1984-85 and most since. I use them to check the ratings from year to year to see if the quality of the water is improving in the areas I fish and boat.
66. I thing your guid is very interesting and has help me lern moor.
67. You should not need a liscence to fish unless you are going to keep some fish.
68. Colour diagrams of fish, and possible diagrams of diseases to watch out for.
69. You could maybe list colours on the fish in the fish ID section. But otherwise this section is great in the other catagories.
70. I prefer the book over internet.

71. Great informative reading. Good Work
72. This is a very good source of information. But I often wonder if smaller creeks and or tributaries have the same guidelines as the main river.
73. You don't include all of the species for a particular lake. For instance, Elephant Lake has many more species than LMBass. Its similar to Baptist lake.
74. Would it be possible to be on automatic mailinglist for he guide & fishing regulations guide. All and all the guide and system works very well for me. Good work!
75. Please provide the raw data from the fiel with location - example: # of fish, type of fish, size of fish, date, etc.
76. I realize Algonquin park probably has their own summary but it would be convenient to access that information in this guide.
77. Very informative. Learned facts that I never knew- great publication.
78. You have done a really good job in the guide, but I don't think you strict enough on some lakes suck as lake Ontario which I think is one of the most polluted lakes in Ontario. I fish lake Ontario mostly and have noticed a lot of deformaties in fish and also what appear to be tumors in species such as rainbow trout mostly in the Niagara River Brown trout , Chinook salmon and especially Lake Trout.
79. I appreciate the continued effort and dedicated staff collecting samples and the staff doing the careful analysis and publication. Keep up the important work!
80. Add more info for lakes the Schreiber - Terrace Bay Area.
81. Well done. Good job thankx.
82. I have noticed that the guide does not list all the different species of fish in a lake. This book could serve not onlyas a consumption guide but as a species guide for an individual lake. Since this book is in part for anglers it would be nice to know what fish are available, not just what's listed. Thank-you.
83. I think this guide is very helpfull to the tourists and regular fisherman keep up the good work!
84. Keep up the great work! I only started actively fishing in Ontario in 1998. This guide has opened my eyes to areas that fish are consumable that I was told otherwise. Do you know if other provinces produce similar books? I would be interested in New Brunswick especially.
85. A very poor job is being done to let people know about the great fishing in the great lakes. Most



residents and non residents believe the lakes are empty and contaminated.

86. Great format - I like using the guide - very informative.

87. Excellent content - excellent covers (especially in last few years)

88. Include streams and lesser known lakes.

89. I find that many people are not aware that this publication exists. An awareness program would be appropriate.

90. I find the guide very informative. I have no suggestions for improvement I'd need to know seems to be right there.

91. I hope you keep putting the guide in the popular places. A lot of us old timers don't know how to use computers and don't want to !! Thank you for this wonderful information!!

92. Print needs to be larger or darker in colour. Better water resistant paper. Where is the guide for sport fish regulations - why not combine them.

93. Thank you for compiling this important information for the public.

94. Very pleased to have it for its content and information. Makes us more aware

95. I would like to see the dates for opening seasons for Ontario's fish species incorporated in this Guide. That would be truly useful to have it all in one book. Also, and not just for the benefit of our American visitors, the Guide needs to spell out loud and clear the fishing regulations. licencing and number of fish per species that can be taken in one day. Get it all under one cover, namely the guide.

96. I fished most of time at Sturgeon lake I had a home on the lake east shore for 30 years.

97. I would like to see the public better educated on the fish in our waters. Most people believe you dare not eat the fish in Lake Ontario.

98. I recieved 2 guides by mail. 1 from you 1 from RDP Fulfillment Corp. Waste of money and postage don't you think. The guide itself is great I'll pass the extra one along.

99. I would like to see the date shown as per the last test for a particular body of water. ie. I know my favorite lake was tested years and years ago the results are printed the same every year. So I don't trust the data much in this booklet Guide.

100. Why not combine the guide with the regulations and save money and simplify everything for everyone?

101. I quote the guide and guidelines when I am asked if the fish are edible. I am constantly asked this when people find out I fish Lake Ontario.
102. Thanks I use the guide on my boat for my customers. TNT Fishing Charters Inland Waters
103. Location where record fish were caught and year.
104. Keep up the good work!
105. Yes, List your WEB site address.
106. Very good guide well done.
107. Please use revenue from fishing licences to restock native fish and wildlife species. I do not believe the Canadian Government is doing enough to keep the number of fish and wildlife at acceptable levels.
108. Good the way it is.
109. After reading the guide if I have any comments You will be contacted.
110. Guide should be handed to anglers when a sport fishing licence is purchased. Conservation officers should carry and distribute guide to unknowledgable anglers. All tackle shops should have copies for distribution. Many guides could be distributed to anglers by visits to busy angling areas ( especially "danger" zones) ex. Ganaraska or Niagara rivers on a weekend. I feel this guide is very important to any angler who wishes to eat their catch, but I have witnessed many anglers who keep more large fish in one day than is safe to eat in a year! People must be better informed as this is a very serious issue.
111. Thank you for your efforts and sincere job in alerting the public on catch and release in regards to eating habits etc. We only eat the small ones and strictly release all breaders.
112. Encourage the release of lge spawning fish and keep up the good work.
113. This is a great guide helps people with the unknown. It great watchdog.
114. Many primary gamefish toargets in lakes I frequent are not listed ie. Head Lake (Layton & Digby Twp) lists only the bass species while Walleye and Muskie are abundant. Tedious lake lists only sucker while the bass and Trout species are left out. Keep up the good work. Thanks
115. It would be nice to see the contamination levels of all fish purchased from our grocery stores. (Eg. Salmon - Canned/fresh, tuna canned etc.)
116. I found some of the printing so small that at my age I had to use a magnifying glass ie. The fish

consumption tables. Otherwise very useful guide.

117. Good usable guide - Great to see contaminants are dropping.

118. Make it more understandable.

119. Very informative, does Quebec where I fish more often have the same thing?

120. Some of the smaller lakes in the Souther ONT Region.

121. Information (detailed) relating to lake "invaders" and how the public should handle thier catch or sighting. I've seen these in other guides but not in colour and frankly you need it to differentiate. Also, a listing of the problem chemicals and the effect they have on one as far as symptoms go. Further, what are the possible ramifications of overeating the black fish catagories. Lastly, give us your study statistics (ie. fish tested and where how many).

122. Since you have the information, in Canada (Ontario) could you see if, when a person buys a Ontario fishing license, could you mail an Eating Guide to the customer. They do go hand in hand. A price could be incorporated to the licence (eg \$2.00 - \$4.00) an excellent price, and quite resonable, since it does go to ones HEALTH. Thank-you.

123. I would like to see conservation practices stressed more. Also more stocking of pressured lakes to take place. The fish hatchery off Hwy 141 in Muskoka was closed Why? There should be strickter inspections on septic systems around central and northern lakes industry information on these views and their progress could be put in the guide as concerned anglers are concerned about the future of our sport fishing.

124. Keep releasing the guide. Add additonal information if you have it. Stress to the Government Environmental Clean up! Double then triple the amount of lakes, rivers to be tested. Level's of contaminants are important, keep up the good work.

125. It's good to have colour pictures of the fishes on the fish identification section.

126. Nottawassaua - Clams are they good for consumption/ lake simcoe clams? What is the general contamination of salmon, trout, in all of the five great lakes. Requesting information on lakes/ ponds that are being stocked for put/ take use.

127. Would like to know the eatability of our freshwater crayfish, bullfrog, clams and turtles.

128. The guide is fantastic. We are fortunate to have access to it. We release 99% of the fish we catch, generally only keeping medium - large yellow perch from lake simcoe and a few small walleye from the Kawarthas. All prime spawners are religiously released.

129. I have never wanted information that I couldn't find in the guide. It's contents are very

thorough and helpful. It is very easy to order and the speed of delivery is very impressive. Keep up the excellent work.

130. Keep up the good work - We need you.

131. More lakes in the Dryden - Kenora Area should mentioned.

132. Information regarding smaller streams and creeks. eg: Nanticoke creek, Boston Creek, Whiteman's Creek, Kenny Creek, Libby Lake.

133. I thank you for your promptness in mailing me the guide to eating fish and regulations I really I appreciate the service.

134. I rely on the guide for locations and contaminated fish I don't want. Thank you.

135. Will not see guide on the internet because I don't have a computer.

136. Excellent data for all. Thank you for your quick response to my order for this latest guide.

137. Keep printing them every year.

138. I really appreciate your guide to healthier fish eating!

139. Well documented and much appreciated. Not only by locals but also by my residents. I work in a LCBO store and customers love them.

140. Rainbow smelt are not mentioned in many areas that are caught in the spring run. Should we not have to worry or have they not been tested?

141. I find the guide useful and very informative.

142. Some of the lakes don't mention the main species ie. Isaac lake - largemouth bass

143. A brief overview of the fundamental sportfishing regulations. ie. Catch and possession limits for two licence types.

144. Every ten pages a catch and release practice. 90% of the time I take pictures and release fish and all 100% large brook trout.

145. This guide to eating Ontario Sport Fish is a great idea and I personally would like to see it kept up dated. Also, any reported waste spills or contaminants that has or still is entering our water ways would be nice if they were added. Thank-you.

146. The best publication which the province of Ontario produces!



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